WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method comprising the steps of:

2   reading a first data representing a first portion of a transport stream;

3   providing a representation of the first data to a transport stream handler, wherein the

4   representation of the first data is provided in a transport stream format; and

5   receiving a bit-rate indicator based upon the first data, wherein the bit-rate indicator is

6   used to adjust a transmit bit rate at which a second portion of the transport stream

7   is provided.

1   2.   The method as in Claim 1, wherein the transport stream format includes a data signal and

2   a clock signal.

1   3.   The method as in Claim 1, wherein the bit-rate indicator is based on an amount of the

2   representation of the first data which has been received by the transport stream handler.

1   4.   The method as in Claim 1, wherein the bit-rate indicator is based on the fullness of a data

2   FIFO (First In First Out) memory associated with the transport stream handler.

1 5. A method comprising the steps of:

2   reading data from a file;

3   setting a transmit bit-rate to a first bit-rate;

4   sending a transport stream based on the data to a demultiplexer at the transmit bit rate;

5   determining a number of transmitted bits between two program clocks referenced in a

6   common program stream, wherein the program clock references are read from the

7   transport stream;

8   determine a desired elapsed time between the two program clock;

9   determining a desired bit-rate based on the desired elapsed time and the number of

10   transmitted bits; and

11   setting the transmit bit-rate to the desired bit-rate.

1 6. The method as in Claim 5, wherein the transmit bit-rate is determined by calculating an

2   average number of bits associated with the transport stream sent to the demultiplexer per

3   unit time.

1 7. The method as in Claim 5, wherein the common program stream is determined by parsing

2   program stream information tables to determine a program identifier of a particular

3   program stream.

1 8. The method as in Claim 5, wherein the common program stream is determined by parsing

2   program map tables to determine a program identifier of a particular program stream.

1 9. The method as in Claim 5, wherein the step of setting the transmit bit-rate to the desired

2   bit-rate includes indicating that transmission of a portion of the transport stream should

3   be delayed.

1   10.   A method comprising the steps of:

2   determining a desired bit-rate of a received transport stream;

3   determining a current bit-rate of the received transport stream;

4   determining a throttle amount based on the desired bit-rate and the current bit-rate; and

5   providing an indicator requesting the throttle amount.

1   11.   The method as in Claim 10, wherein the desired bit-rate is based on calculating a desired

2   elapsed time between consecutive program clock references included in the received

3   transport stream.

1   12.   The method as in Claim 10, wherein the throttle amount includes an amount of time to

2   wait before transmitting a portion of the transport stream.

1   13.   The method as in Claim 10, wherein the throttle includes an amount of data to hold to

2   alter the current bit-rate.

1   14.   The method as in Claim 10, wherein the desired bit-rate and the current bit-rate indicate a

2   number of bits per millisecond.

1   15.   The method as in Claim 10, wherein the desired bit-rate and the current bit-rate indicate a

2   number of bits per microsecond.

1   16.   The method as in Claim 10, wherein the indicator includes a providing a signal via

2   hardware signal.

1   17.   The method as in Claim 16, wherein the signal is used to apply a value to a particular

2   register.

1   18.   The method as in Claim 16, wherein the signal includes an interrupt.

1   19.   The method as in Claim 10, wherein the indicator includes a software signal.

1 20. The method as in Claim 10, wherein the step of providing the indicator is only performed

2   when a difference between the desired bit-rate and the current bit-rate is greater than a

3   predetermined value.

1 21. The method as in Claim 10, further including the steps of:

2   determining if the throttle time is larger than a threshold;

3   reading new data from a file when the time is larger than the threshold; and

4   determining a new desired bit-rate based on the new data, when the time is larger than the

5   threshold.

1   22.   A method comprising the steps of:

2   receiving data from a multimedia stream at a buffer;

3   determining a fullness of the buffer; and

4   providing an indicator to request a transmitting source to reduce a data rate of the

5   multimedia stream when the fullness is greater than a predetermined amount.

1   23.   The method as in Claim 22, wherein the buffer includes a first-in-first-out memory array.

1   24.   The method as in Claim 22, wherein the data is related to video data.

1   25.   The method as in Claim 22, wherein the data is related to audio data.

1   26.   The method as in Claim 22, wherein reducing the data rate of the multimedia stream

2   includes suspending transmission of a portion of the multimedia stream.

1   27.   A system comprising:

2   a data processor having an I/O buffer;

3   a memory having an I/O buffer coupled to the I/O buffer of the data processor, the memory

4   capable of storing code to control said data processor to:

5   read data related to a transport stream from a file;

6   a multimedia port including:

7   a buss to provide data and an address to communicate with a first external device;

8   a set of general purpose I/O lines for communicating with a second external

9   device;

10   a TVO transmit portion to transmit TVO data; and

11   a transport stream transmit portion to transmit a representation of the transport

12   stream.

1   28.   The method as in Claim 27, wherein the transport stream portion includes an indicator for

2   selecting between parallel and serial transmission of the representation of the transport stream.

1   29.   A computer readable medium tangibly embodying a program of instructions to

2   manipulate a data processor to:

3   determine a desired bit-rate of a received transport stream;

4   determine a current bit-rate of the received transport stream;

5   determine a throttle amount based on the desired bit-rate and the current bit-rate; and

6   provide an indicator requesting the throttle amount.

1   30.   The method as in Claim 29, wherein the desired bit-rate is determined based on an

2   amount of data between consecutive program clock references within the received

3   transport stream.

1   31.   The method as in Claim 29, wherein the throttle amount is an amount of time to suspend

2   a transmission of the received transport stream.

1 32. A system comprising:

2 a means to determine a desired bit-rate of a received transport stream;

3 a means to determine a current bit-rate of the received transport stream;

4 a means to determine a throttle amount based on the desired bit-rate and the current bit-

5 rate; and

6 a means to provide an indicator requesting the throttle time.

1   33.   A system comprising:

2   a means to receive data from a multimedia stream at a buffer;

3   a means to determine a fullness of the buffer; and

4   a means to provide an indicator to request a transmitting source to reduce a data rate of

5   the multimedia stream when the fullness is greater than a predetermined amount.